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DODWORTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1947

Wombwell:
A. Taylor & Sons, Ltd., Printers and Stationers

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The Gables,
Wombwell,
Nr. Barnsley.
September, 1948.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report of the health and social conditions of your urban district for the year 1947. The report is compiled from the data and statistics collected during the office of my predecessor and therefore my comments will be minimal and in the main explanatory.

It is customary for a Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report to express an opinion on the health of the population during the year under review and in so far as an opinion can be given from an analysis of the vital statistics only, the health of the people in your district during 1947 appeared to be satisfactory. But as my predecessor in his annual report for 1946 rightly pointed out, the range of vital statistics is limited and the deductions which may be drawn from their study must be of limited value. The records of the incidence of sickness (apart from notifiable infectious diseases) are not available to the Medical Officer of Health and so long as he is without such vital information it will be impossible for him to review the health of the population as a whole, to say how much of the total sickness might have been prevented by improved health services and social conditions and to take the necessary measures for prevention in so far as such measures are practicable. This gap in the knowledge of local health problems has exercised the minds of the Medical Officers of Health for some time and it is hoped ways and means will be found in the future to overcome the many difficulties which so far have prevented the information being made available to them.

The birth rate for the year was 25·1 as compared with 24·4 for 1946 and with 20·5 for England and Wales. The death rate was 9·2, the same as last year, compared with 12·0 for the country as a whole. The actual number of deaths for all ages in the district was 38 while the total of live births was 104 giving a natural increase of births over deaths of 66. Of the deaths 3 were in children under 1 year of age giving an infant mortality rate of 29·1 as compared with 60 last year, a significant decrease and one very pleasant to record.

The increase in the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases from 19 in 1946 to 112 last year was due to an epidemic of measles which was of a mild character and which caused little ill health among the sufferers. Once again no case of diphtheria was reported, a fact on which I have commented at some length later on in the report.

I am indebted to your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. Strutt, for his report on the sanitary conditions of the district for 1947 which I have included at the end of my report.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. S. HYND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER for 1947

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA.

The area of the district is 1,857 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population at the middle of the year is 4,147 showing an increase of 47 above the figure for 1946. The census populations in 1921 and 1931 were 3,390 and 4,248 respectively.

Population figures for the last 5 years are :—

Population for 1943	3,853
Population for 1944	3,898
Population for 1945	4,054
Population for 1946	4,100
Population for 1947	4,147

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 1,058, an increase of 33 over the figure for 1946.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The rateable value of the district was at the 1st April. 1948 £14,854/0/0.

The product of a Penny Rate was £53/16/3.

INDUSTRIES.

Coal Mining is the only industry in the township apart from Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	51	45	96
Illegitimate	2	6	8
Totals	53	51	104

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population for Dodworth was 25·1.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population for England and Wales was 20·5.

STILL BIRTHS :

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	3

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 population for Dodworth was 0·72.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales was 0.50.

DEATHS :

The total number of registered deaths during the year was 38.

Male Deaths 22
Female Deaths 16

The total is the same as for 1946. 6 of the total deaths occurred in hospital.

Death Rate per 1,000 population for Dodworth was 9·2.

Death Rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales was 12·0.

Table I. Causes of Deaths during 1947.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	1	1
Influenza	1	—	1
Cancer of buc: cav: eosoph (M) uterus (F)	1	—	1
Cancer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	—	2	2
Diabetes	—	2	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	4	1	5
Heart diseases	8	4	12
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	3	4
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Other respiratory diseases	2	—	2
Cong. mal.: birth inj.: infant dis.:	1	1	2
All other causes	1	—	1
Totals	22	16	38

Table II. Total of Births and Deaths in Dodworth for Years 1938—1947.

Year	No. of Births	No. of Deaths
1938	84	42
1939	78	47
1940	70	45
1941	86	45
1942	83	36
1943	92	39
1944	89	36
1945	78	52
1946	100	38
1947	104	38

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 3 deaths during the year of infants under the age of one year. This is the lowest recorded infantile mortality rate since 1942 and a much lower rate than that for the country as a whole. If the causes of death are examined it will be found that 2 deaths occurred within the first fortnight of birth and one at the age of 4 months. The neo-natal deaths occurred in the hospital where the babies were born, one being due to a congenital abnormality. The death of the older baby occurred at home and was also due to a congenital abnormality. None of the deaths could be said ta have been preventable with better ante-natal or post natal care, a finding which speaks well for the efficiency of your ante-natal and welfare clinics and for the efforts of those people, medical and lay people alike, who work for the well being of the mothers and babies of Dodworth.

Infantile Mortality Rate for Dodworth 29
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales ... 41

Table III. A Comparison of Infantile Death Rates of Dodworth and England and Wales for Years 1938 to 1947.

Year	Dodworth	England and Wales
1938	95	53
1939	86	57
1940	57	55
1941	58	59
1942	36	49
1943	43	49
1944	56	46
1945	153	46
1946	60	43
1947	29	41

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

I am pleased to be able to report that again this year, as last year, there were no deaths due to maternal causes.

MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Medical Services and Clinics have continued unchanged during the year. Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at the Mechanics Institute, Dodworth on Tuesdays from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held fortnightly on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Stonehurst, Green Road. Dodworth from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Tuberculosis clinics are held at 46, Church Street, Barnsley under the control of the Area Consultant Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases are treated at the Special Treatment Centre, Queens Road, Barnsley.

Your municipal midwife resides at 32, South Road, Dodworth and your District Nurse at the Nurses Home, Jermyn Croft, Dodworth.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The ambulance service organised by the West Riding County Council and operated from the Hoyland Depot has remained unchanged during the year but some improvement has been effected in the types of vehicles used.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases notified during the year was 112 as compared with 19 in the previous year. The increase was due to an epidemic of measles which I am pleased to report was of a mild nature, caused little ill-health among the children affected, and left no unpleasant sequelae. For the third year in succession no case of diphtheria was reported, due in the main to the success of the diphtheria immunization campaign in your district. At the end of the year it was estimated that 55% of children in Dodworth under 5 years of age and 74% of the children between the ages of 5—15 were immunized giving an overall figure of 67% for all children in the district. It is worth recording that this figure is lower than the estimated percentage for 1946 when it was estimated that 75% of the children under the age of 15 years were immunized. This fall in the percentage of children immunized is significant and must be noted especially if it means any apathy among parents towards immunization or a lack of awareness of the seriousness of the disease. Diphtheria

remains a serious disease in the non-immunized child and no parent should doubt it. Facilities for immunization are freely offered and readily obtainable and, under the County Council scheme, are without charge to the parent whether the immunization is done by the family doctor or by the Local Authority Medical Officers at the children's clinics or the local schools.

Table IV. Infectious Diseases Notified.

Measles	103
Scarlet Fever	8
Pneumonia	1
Total	112

Table V. Comparative Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Disease.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Scarlet Fever ..	1	10	9	7	6	14	11	4	1	8
Measles	—	—	38	9	10	101	1	105	—	103
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	30	—	—	1	40	17	—
Diphtheria ...	2	6	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	1	6	15	3	6	8	1	—	1
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year was 3 as compared with 1 during 1946 and 1 in 1945.

The number of deaths from this cause was 1. Details are given in Table VI.

Table VI. Tuberculosis Cases Notified During the Year 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—

DODWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year Ending 31st December, 1947

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present my Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1947.

Year	Houses	Privies	W.C's.	Waste Water Closets	Pails
1946	1,025	25	914	25	3
1947	1,058	25	950	25	3

HOUSING.

Number of houses constructed in 1947 — 36 houses.

Of the new houses completed, 3 were erected by private enterprise and 33 by the Local Authority. All are of traditional type.

3 old houses were closed under the Housing Act, 1936 and the tenants rehoused in Council houses.

There were no water closet conversions during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewage disposal works were reconstructed in 1927 and are designed to provide for a population of 5,500.

No adverse reports on the effluent have been made since the works were reconstructed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Household refuse is collected weekly from dust bins. A number of worn out dustbins have been replaced by owners after serving of notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and owing to the improved supply of dust bins practically every house in the district is now equipped with a dust bin.

The collection is made by a petrol driven, covered scavenging vehicle which is designed specifically for the purpose of refuse collection, and refuse is conveyed to the Welfare Recreation Ground where it is disposed of by the Controlled tipping system.

There has been no nuisance on the tip.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

12 Informal Notices, in respect of 54 houses, were served on the owners of old property to abate nuisances caused by defective roofs, eaves gutters, W.C's. and waste water closets. At the end of the year 11 notices had been complied with.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Owing to shortage of staff no systematic inspection has been carried out for bed bug infestations, but where complaints have been received, treatments have been satisfactory.

Prospective tenants for this Council's housing estates are inspected and houses and furniture treated where infestations discovered.

RODENT CONTROL.

The district sewers were successfully treated during the month of August, according to Ministry of Food methods.

WATER SUPPLY.

Every house in the district except one has piped supply of water for domestic purposes, provided by the Barnsley Corporation. The one without a piped supply draws water from a satisfactory well.

SALVAGE.

The yield of waste paper for the year was 6 tons 15 cwts.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are 12 cowkeepers in the district, 3 of which are licensed for production of Accredited milk. There are 28 cowsheds which are periodically inspected.

H. STRUTT,

Sanitary Inspector.